

It is unlikely that the House will consider earmark requests this year and perhaps for the entire 112th Congress. There are still ongoing discussions about what actually constitutes an "earmark."

Should the members of the House once again have the opportunity to pursue funding opportunities for worthwhile opportunities in North Carolina, I will continue to advocate for my constituents. During my time in Congress, I have supported efforts to make this process more transparent, including a ban on requests from private corporations.

Spending levels for all the annual appropriations bills are set before Congress adds any earmarks to a bill. Instead of increasing spending, an earmark simply takes the power to decide how a portion of federal money is spent away from the federal government's bureaucracy and places it back in the hands of elected members of Congress.

There is nothing new about the idea that Congress ought to have a say in how their constituents' money is spent. It says so in the Constitution.

The power to direct spending, of course, comes with a duty to ensure that your money is spent wisely, prudently, and on projects that are in the taxpayers interest. Like you, I am troubled when this process is abused by special interests. As the Chairman of the Science

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, I have had the opportunity to shed light on and put an end to earmarks that did not pass the smell test.

And should the House consider earmarks in the future, I will continue to take this responsibility seriously. My office will continue to judge requests based upon the demonstrated, measurable improvements in health, education, safety, quality of life, or economic benefits that will result from the project, for this congressional district, and for the country.

I was born and raised in North Carolina, and I have represented North Carolina in Congress for the past eight years. It is my job to know what our community does and does not need from the federal government as well as the federal government's employees in Washington who otherwise would decide how to allocate general appropriations to specific local projects. In the future, should members have the opportunity to have this say in what our government spends, I will listen to folks that ask for help and use good judgment to vet those requests.

Despite the current ban on earmarks, I will continue to post on my website a complete list of the earmarks I have supported during the past few years.



Brad Miller
Member of Congress

[Fiscal Year 2011 Requests](#)

[Fiscal Year 2010 Requests](#)